



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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Julia M. Eckstein
Director



Matt Blunt
Governor

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Memorandum to Missouri Reporters:

Driven by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) reporting requirement changes for Varicella (Chickenpox), the Missouri Reporting Rule has been changed to make all cases of Varicella reportable, not just those that have resulted in death. At this time, CDC does not require a comprehensive case investigation form be completed for Varicella reports **unless** the condition results in death. Changes to the reporting rule are reflective of that. This change goes into effect April 30, 2005.

19 CSR 20-20.20 (Reporting of Communicable, Environmental, and Occupational Diseases) now states "...reporting as required in section (4) of this rule shall include the patient's name, date of birth, vaccination history, and severity of illness; the local health authority jurisdiction within which the cases occurred, and the date of report."

Other information that will be needed to determine case status as per CDC case definition, and not included in the reporting rule amendments are: other associated cases and onset date.

19 CSR 20-20.10 (Definitions relating to Communicable, Environmental and Occupational Diseases) now define the categories of the severity of illness to be:

- (A) Mild – less than 50 lesions (able to count lesions within 30 seconds);
- (B) Moderate – 50-500 lesions (anything in between mild and severe); and
- (C) Severe – more than 500 lesions (difficult to see the skin) or lesions with complications.

CDC has since expanded the categories by breaking out the "(B) Moderate" category into two separate categories. The categories that now need to be reported, based on CDC requirements, are:

- (A) Less than 50 lesions (able to count lesions within 30 seconds);
- (B) 50-249 lesions (a hand can be placed between lesions without touching a lesion);
- (C) 250-500 lesions (a hand *cannot* be placed between lesions without touching a lesion); and
- (D) Greater than 500 lesions (lesions clumped so closely that normal skin can hardly be seen)

Changes to 19 CSR 20-20.10 will be made at the next regular update and not as part of an Emergency Rule post.

The existing Disease Case Report (CD1) form will be used to report the cases. A "Reporter's Guide" is attached noting what specific information needs to be completed to meet Reporting Rule requirements. Because the form does not have specific locations for vaccination status and severity of illness at this time, the guide references existing sections to use in reporting this information. If diagnostic tests were performed, attaching the lab slip is accepted instead of completing the diagnostics portion of the CD1 other than for vaccination status.

If you have any questions regarding the reporting rule changes, or the Reporter's Guide, please contact Peggy Hartman, Office of Surveillance at 573-751-9071.

Attachment

www.dhss.mo.gov

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services protects and promotes quality of life and health for all Missourians by developing and implementing programs and systems that provide: information and education, effective regulation and oversight, quality services, and surveillance of diseases and conditions.

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